



*Office of Laboratory Licensure,
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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
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DATE: March 9, 1995
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Wesley B. Press, Acting Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #5
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. Some highlights of method changes in VOC's in drinking water:

- Packed column methods for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and trihalomethane (THMs) will be withdrawn on July 1, 1996.
- Alternate sorbents to trap VOCs are permissible for methods 502.2 and 524.2 provided all quality assurance criteria specified in the method are met. Purge time, purge gas flow rate, and the desorption time specified in the method may not be changed.
- For EPA methods 502.2, 524.2 and 551, the samples must be acidified at the time of collection but after they have been dechlorinated. Acidification must not be delayed until the samples are received in the laboratory. Dechlorination is required for TTHM analysis only. Laboratories must carefully follow the preservation procedure described in each method especially the order in which the reagents are added to the sample. EPA strongly recommends the use of sodium thiosulfate as the dechlorination reagent, except when vinyl chloride and other gases are measured with a mass spectrometer in which case, ascorbic acid is recommended.

2. The National Laboratory Training Network celebrates National Laboratory week by offering a free teleconference on "Cryptosporidium: The Milwaukee Outbreak" on April 20, 1995 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please contact Charmaine D'Souza for location of presentation in Phoenix (602-255-3454) or other out-of-state presentations.
3. The State Laboratory received a memo from Alan Stevens, Director of the Technical Support Division of the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. The memo addresses preservation of samples for total metals analysis. EPA currently recommends that samples be acidified with nitric acid after receipt in the laboratory to avoid problems in the field and with transportation. A statement made in 40 CFR 141.23(k)(4) has been interpreted by some to require unacidified samples to be shipped with ice. The purpose of this memo is to clarify this concern.

The EPA does not require icing of these samples, because EPA no longer believes icing should be necessary and because icing places an undue burden on the utilities. The December 5, 1994 Federal Register (59 FR 62456) under CFR 141.23(k)(1) specifies analytical methods including the 1994 versions of EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8 and 200.9 that should be used for the analysis of various metals. Paragraph 8.3 states

" ... Preservation may be done at the time of collection, however, to avoid the hazards of strong acids in the field, transport restrictions, and possible contamination, it is recommended that the samples be returned to the laboratory within two weeks of collection and acid preserved upon receipt... Following acidification, the samples should be mixed, held for sixteen hours, and verified to pH<2 ... prior to ... analysis..."

If you have questions about this guidance contact the Laboratory Licensure at 1-800-372-3454.

4. Environmental Technical Support Hot-line/1-800-372-3454:

This special phone number has been established as a direct communication with the State Laboratory Environmental Licensure program. Please use it to share information, ask questions, request clarifications; in short, all communications with the staff of Environmental Laboratory Licensure.

5. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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